

**From:** [Greg Fife](#)  
**To:** [Ragan Broyles](#)  
**Cc:** [Petersen.Chris@epa.gov](mailto:Petersen.Chris@epa.gov); [webster.susan@epa.gov](mailto:webster.susan@epa.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Bayou Corne Update  
**Date:** 09/21/2012 12:29 PM

---

That is the biggest thing there, the public interest.

When you look at the VOCs that Wilma decided to publish, its very clear that there really nothing that is showing up in the samples/monitoring. She points out that the highest levels are at the Gator Stop, that is a gas station, and should have the highest levels of VOCs. Every other level is something that can be predicted to be found along most streets and highways, or where there are drill rigs, compressors, generators, cars and trucks operating.

The air monitoring around the Texas Brine facility is showing nothing, with the only hits attributed to weather inversions that trap the exhausts and vapors, or the exhausts from boats and such.

Last night, there was a public meeting. The State has held several public meeting throughout the response. This particular one was called for by the citizens and they issued last minute invitations to LSP, LDNR, LDEQ, parish, USGS, etc. It doesn't appear any of the agencies showed up. I'm waiting for the new article on that meeting to be forwarded to me.

▼ Ragan Broyles---09/21/2012 09:56:14 AM---FYI...Obviously Citizen Groups are watching.  
----- Forwarded by Ragan Broyles/R6/USEPA/US on 09/21/2

From: Ragan Broyles/R6/USEPA/US  
To: [webster.susan@epa.gov](mailto:webster.susan@epa.gov), [Fife.Greg@epa.gov](mailto:Fife.Greg@epa.gov)  
Cc: [Petersen.Chris@epa.gov](mailto:Petersen.Chris@epa.gov)  
Date: 09/21/2012 09:56 AM  
Subject: Fw: Bayou Corne Update

---

FYI...Obviously Citizen Groups are watching.

----- Forwarded by Ragan Broyles/R6/USEPA/US on 09/21/2012 09:54 AM -----

From: David Gray/R6/USEPA/US  
To: "Pam Phillips" <[phillips.pam@epa.gov](mailto:phillips.pam@epa.gov)>, "Ragan Broyles" <[Broyles.Ragan@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Broyles.Ragan@epamail.epa.gov)>  
Date: 09/21/2012 08:12 AM  
Subject: Fw: Bayou Corne Update

---

FYSA  
David Gray  
Director  
External and Government Affairs  
US EPA  
(214) 665-2200 office  
(214) 789-2619 mobile  
[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)



9544112

---

**From:** Paul Orr [paul@lmrk.org]  
**Sent:** 09/20/2012 06:40 PM AST  
**To:** David Gray  
**Subject:** Bayou Corne Update



**LEAN**

yv8yACYAAAAAATG91aXNpYW5hIEVudmlyb25tZW50YWwgQWN0aW9uIE5ldHdvcm5=



yv8VAAkAAAAAATE1SSyBsb2dv Louisiana Environmental  
Action Network  
&  
Lower Mississippi RIVERKEEPER©

*Helping to Make Louisiana Safe for Future Generations*

E-ALERT - September 20, 2012

[view this on leanweb.org](http://leanweb.org)

# Sampling Continues in Bayou Corne

## Bayou Corne, Assumption Parish, Louisiana



Photo of  
Bayou Corne Sinkhole by Assumption Parish OEP 9/16/12

By Wilma Subra

Subra Company/Louisiana Environmental Action Network/Lower Mississippi River Keeper

The Assumption Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness has reported a series of expansions of the Bayou Corne sinkhole in recent days. Land and trees continue to disappear as the sinkhole grows in size.

**September 20, 2012:** Approximately 25' of embankment on the east side fell into the sinkhole.

**September 18, 2012:** Texas Brine reported a slough-in of approximately 200' of embankment at the sinkhole.

**September 17, 2012:** Texas Brine reported a 20' x 20' growth of the sinkhole.

### Volatile Organic Compounds at Bayou Bubbling Sites

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sampled the air in the area of the Bayou Bubbling sites for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). The data consist of sampling from September 7, 2012 through September 16, 2012.

Volatile Organic Chemicals were detected at the bubbling locations on September 11, 2012 and September 14, 2012. The monitoring data for the other dates were none detected for the Volatile Organic Compounds.

### Volatile Organic Compounds:

Bubbling Locations

9/11/12

9/14/12

1	0.9 ppm	0.2 ppm
2	0.2 ppm	N. D.
3	0.6 ppm	0.2 ppm
4	0.2 ppm	0.4 ppm
5	0.2 ppm	0.3 ppm
6	0.9 ppm	N. D.
7	0.8 ppm	0.1 ppm
8	0.5 ppm	0.2 ppm
9	0.6 ppm	N. D.
10	0.9 ppm	N. D.

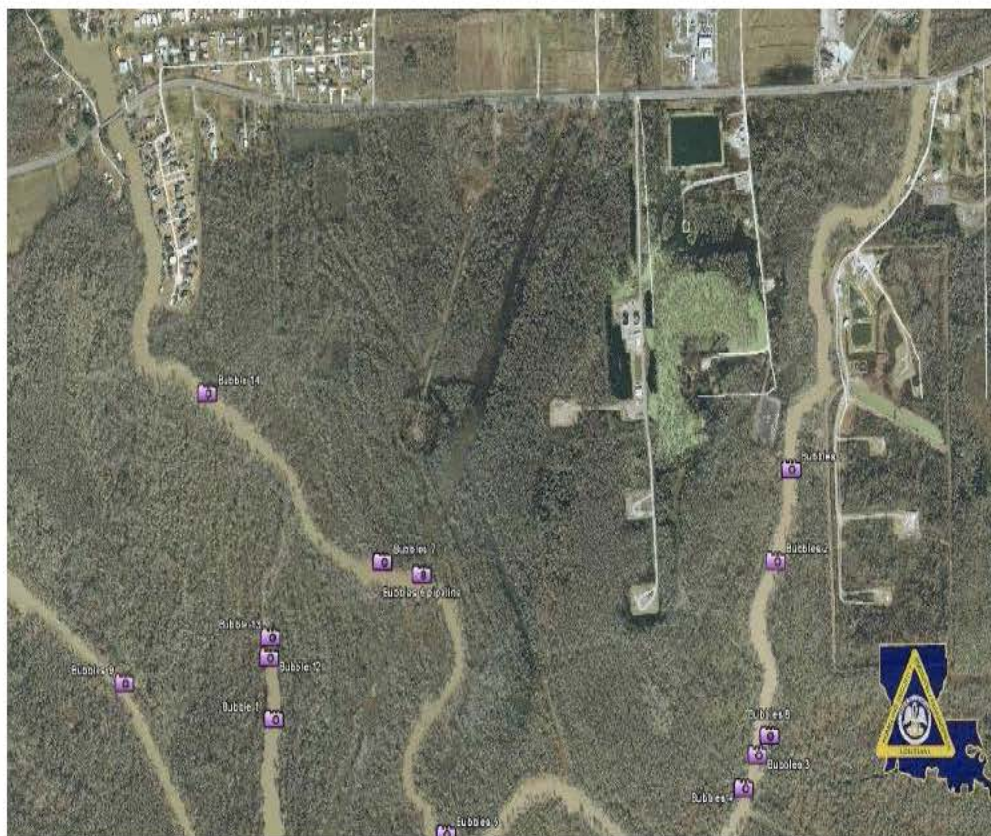
N. D. - None Detect

The highest concentrations of Volatile Organic Compounds at the bubbling sites were detected at locations 1, 6, and 10 (0.9 ppm) and location 7 (0.8 ppm) on September 11, 2012. On September 14, 2012, the highest concentration of Volatile Organic Compounds were detected at location 4 (0.4 ppm).

Bubbling location 1 is on Grand Bayou west of Occidental Chemical Corp. Brine 002, an active brine solution mining facility. Bubbling location 6 is on Bayou Corne in the pipeline corridor area. Bubbling location 10 is on Bayou Corne 1,250 feet north of Hwy 70. Bubbling location 7 is on Bayou Corne in the pipeline corridor area.

Bubbling location 4 is on Grand Bayou, 1,800 feet south of Bubbling location 1.





[click image to view map of bubble locations](#)

### **Volatile Organic Compounds at Monitoring Locations in the Bayou Corne Area**

DEQ provided the results of air monitoring for Volatile Organic Compounds from locations in the Bayou Corne area from September 7 through September 18, 2012. The Volatile Organic Compounds were non detect at all locations monitored on September 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13, 2012.

#### **Volatile Organic Compounds (ppm):**

Location	9-11	9-14	9-15	9-16	9-17	9-18
Sportsman Landing						
117 Sportsman Way		0.3			0.1	0.1
133 Sportsman Way					0.1	0.1
153 Sportsman Way	0.1			0.3		
1451 Hwy 70	0.4				0.3	
Hwy 70 & Gumbo St.	0.6					
Hwy 70 & Well Head Road	0.6	0.1				
Hwy 70 & Crosstex Gate	0.2	0.3				0.1
Gator Stop & Hwy 69	0.3	0.2	0.1		0.3	0.2

The highest Volatile Organic Compounds concentrations were detected at Hwy 70 and Gumbo St. and Hwy 70 and Well Head Road on September 11, 2012. Gator Stop was the location with the most frequent detectable concentrations of Volatile Organic Compounds. All locations tested, with the exception of Sportsman Landing, had detectable concentrations of VOCs during one or more days of the sampling period.

#### **Sludge Material Floating on Surface of Sink Hole**

On September 8, 2012, DEQ sampled the sludge material floating on the surface of the sink hole. The material consisted of 48.1 % Diesel Range Organics and 15% Oil Range Organics.

Boston Chemical Data received a sample of surface material from the Bayou Corne sinkhole collected on September 18, 2012. On arrival, a portion of the sample was analyzed for radiation using an alpha and beta radiation counter, and a gamma spectrometer (Oil and gas production often concentrates naturally occurring radioactive material). The remaining sample was prepared for analysis of petroleum hydrocarbons, particularly diesel fuels. The results of which are still pending.

The gamma spectral results found 5.9 picoCuries per gram of radioactive decay products of naturally-occurring uranium and thorium. Testing of total alpha and total beta radiation showed that these were at levels about twice the natural background.

State of Louisiana data shows that hydrocarbons in the sink hole sludge are dangerously elevated, while radiation levels exceeded background by only a small amount. Based on this limited testing, this sinkhole sludge is a hazard because of the presence of the diesel fuel, which can contaminate air and groundwater. Hydrocarbon levels may also be in the flammable range.

Radiation is still a concern. The State of Louisiana found much higher levels of radiation in deeper parts of the sink hole than the place where we received our surface sample. There is enough radiation present to show that natural underground radioactive material has been concentrated in the sink hole. Even though the diesel hydrocarbons are currently the greater hazard, radiation testing should continue.

---

**Learn More About Us!**



[yv8VAAkAAAAAAAAATEVBTiBsb2dv](#)

-[LEANWEB.ORG](#)- -[LMRK.ORG](#)-



[yv8VAAkAAAAAAAAATE1SSyBsb2dv](#)

[Forward email](#)

[UhQEAJseEAAABAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA=](#)



*Try it FREE today.*

This email was sent to gray.david@epamail.epa.gov by [paul@lmrk.org](mailto:paul@lmrk.org) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Louisiana Environmental Action Network | P.O. Box 66323 | Baton Rouge | LA | 70809